

Park and Recreation Minutes

June 12th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Carey. Present were Mike Carey, Kacey Fahey, Josh Lindgren, Nicole Bower, Mark Page, Danny Rubio, Eric Hanson and Dawn McCracken.

Ryan Labrash attended as a guest. He's a AAA coach and they are trying to fundraise for the kids to have an opportunity to attend the Cal Ripken Experience week in Myrtle Beach July of 2024. Fund raising ideas include utilizing Stelzel Fields for food trucks, a DJ, bags tournament, a whiffle ball tournament, a raffle, etc. Ryan will work with the team to draft an initial proposal to explain more in depth. They will be aiming for a day and time that would coincide well with Empire Celebration. This could help bring the older teens and adults of Empire together.

A request was received to add lights to the tennis courts. Pending City Council approval, a bid may be requested.

Summer Entertainment was kicked off with Barnyard Buddies. They brought a variety of animals for their petting zoo. It was a huge hit with 106 attendees. Many positive remarks were made on our Facebook Park and Rec page as well as in person by families attending. Summer Entertainment will continue the 2nd and 4th Sundays in June and July. August will bring the Empire Celebration on Aug 3rd as well as the Farmington band on August 27th.

Planning for Empire Celebration is well underway! We'll get a request to the Sheriff Department and the Fire Departments for equipment to display. Josh will reach out to Kwik Trip to coordinate a water donation and Dawn will reach out to Sweet Kneads to order buns. We haven't yet heard from Oscar Meyer about the availability of the Weiner mobile. Mark will reach out to Northwoods Tree Service to see if they'd be willing to bring some of their big equipment as well. Nicole will reach out for a quote to have our own horses made to continue the horse game since the previously borrowed horses may no longer be available.

The Town Hall Park signs should be delivered withing the next week. One will be placed near the flag pole, one in the first native garden and one overlooking the pond. They will be set back for ease of mowing.

Dawn received a request from the Farmington girl's team to update the contract to allow lights to go until 11 pm. Currently, games are required to end by 10:00 with the lights out at 10:30. Park hours end at 10:00 PM. The Committee recommended the contract hours be upheld. Dawn will check with Jerod to see if the parking lights can be set separately and left on until 11:00.

A request was made by Maintenance to remove inner gates at Stelzel Fields for ease of mowing. The Committee wanted to know if they could just be secured back as opposed to removed. Dawn will check with Jerod regarding this.

The meeting was adjourned.